

**REMARKS**

Claim 1 calls for "wherein the received signal is modified to a maximal value, a time between the transmit signal and received signal is used to determine a length of the telephone loop." Thus, as pointed out by the Examiner in the last office action, the claimed invention basically involves maximizing the echo. See office action at page 6.

The office action points out that Altekar uses a technique by which the echo may be increased or decreased. For some reason, it is suggested that maximizing the echo would be obvious in view thereof. While Altekar teaches that the echo can be increased or decreased, he basically teaches that what you want is the least impairment from echo signals. See paragraph 30, last seven lines and paragraph 31, first three lines. Thus, Altekar teaches a technique by which you could increase or decrease the echo, but then he suggests minimizing the echo.

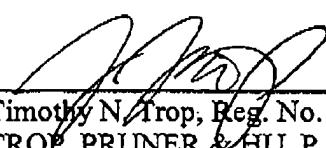
The fundamental problem with the rejection is that while Altekar could be used to increase the echo, nothing teaches any reason to do so. Altekar explicitly teaches away and Shi is silent. Therefore, there is a lack of teaching of any rationale to maximize the echo, even if there is a way to teach that teaches how to increase the echo.

Moreover, teaching increasing the echo does not teach maximizing the echo. That is, not only is no technique provided in Altekar to maximize the echo, but there is no reason given in any of the prior art why you would want to maximize the echo instead of minimize it, as taught by Altekar.

Therefore, the rejections of claims 1, 10, and 14 should be reconsidered.

Respectfully submitted,

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